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P/ The present number of the BULLETIN is a trial issue. If it meets with approval of the members of the Academy, it will be continued in the present form at monthly intervals. Members of the Academy are requested to submit items of news interesting to dental historians. Address G. B. Denton, American Dental Association, 222 E. Superior Street, Chicago, Illinois.

GUERINI COLLECTION AT BALTIMORE

P/ The collection of ancient prosthesis assembled by the Italian historian of dentistry, Vincenzo Guerini, was purchased in 1952 by Baltimore College of Dental Surgery. It consists of several specimens undoubtedly of the greatest antiquity, in some instances probably extending back to the fifth century B.C. or earlier, as well as a number of undated specimens which may also belong to the ancient period, and a number of pieces of more recent origin, from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The specimens from antiquity in their construction reveal Etruscan, Greek, or Phoenician origin. The Etruscan appliances, of which there are at least three, are characterized by the use of soldered gold bands for retention. The Phoenician pieces, supposedly following the manner of Egyptian craftsmanship, employ gold wires. Among the Etruscan specimens are also two examples of the votive pottery images of teeth placed by sufferers from toothache in the shrines of the gods whose good offices they wished to secure.

The collection is displayed in an ornate carved cabinet which bears the inscription "Cav. V. Guerini, Napoli" above and "Odontotecnica Archeologica" below.

A RARE BOOK ROOM

P/ Northwestern University Dental School's large collection of rare dental books is to be housed in a rare book room which has just been completed. The collection consists of about 1,000 volumes (duplicates not counted) consisting of exclusively dental works published from 1547 to 1865, and of other scientific, medical, and general literary works containing material on dental subjects. The new room is equipped with a clear plastic door with ornamental ironwork and steel bookcases. The new room and its special equipment will do much to preserve this valuable collection intact and, when the books are fully cataloged and described as is planned, it will make them more useful to students of dental history.

EARLY FRENCH DOCUMENTS

E/ The well-known edicts of the French kings in 1699 and 1768 prescribing the fundamental statutes of the surgeons of Paris and providing regulation of the practitioners of dentistry, have been extensively quoted in various histories of dentistry. But in no instance have these documents been carefully studied with regard to the relations of "experts for the teeth" to the community of surgeons with whom they were associated. A casual comparison of the provisions for dental practitioners in 1699 with those of 1768 indicates that the usually asserted change in their status under the two edicts is not borne out by the provisions of the documents. A microfilm copy of the edict of 1699 as published, and of the edict of 1768 both in manuscript and as published is in the possession of Northwestern University Dental School, Chicago, Illinois. This is probably the only form in which the entire documents are available in this country.

DIAMOND JUBILEE OF ITEMS OF INTEREST

E/ The present, 1953, volume of Items of Interest celebrates the 75th anniversary of the journal's existence. Items of Interest, which has been a proprietary publication throughout its life, is the oldest dental journal now being published in the United States, and its publishers claim that it is the oldest dental journal in the world. "This volume," according to the publisher's announcement, "will contain numerous articles by eminent authorities, dealing with the development of the various branches of dentistry in the past seventy-five years."

BIBLIOGRAPHY

E/ For the background of ancient dental history, Chauncey D. Leake's little book of 108 pages, The Old Egyptian Papyri (University of Kansas Press, Lawrence, Kansas, 1952) will be found helpful.

E/ The Rhode Island State Dental Society, which commemorates the seventy-fifth anniversary of its founding this year, has issued a booklet of 54 pages, The History of Rhode Island State Dental Society. Dr. Charles F. McKivergan is the historian of the Society and largely responsible for the history.

E/ Sir Frank Colyer's Old Instruments Used for Extracting Teeth is an exhaustive treatise in 245 pages (Staples, 1952). It is reviewed in the March J.A.D.A.

E/ Libellus de Dentibus of Bartholomew Eustachius, the first book exclusively devoted to dental anatomy, has been published in facsimile and in German translation by Fritz Driak of Vienna (Urban & Schwarzenberg, Vienna, 1951).

OO MAX E. SOIFER, member of the A.A.H.D. and editor of the Connecticut State Dental Association, died January 7 at Hartford.